

Ascend Learning Trust

## **SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES**

Written by:

**RT**

Ascend Learning Trust Responsibility:

**Standards**

Date ratified:

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**1**

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## QUICK REFERENCE CONTACTS GUIDE

(Insert Name of School)

	Name	Contact Details
Designated Safeguarding Lead		
Deputy DSL		
Assistant DSL		
Headteacher & Assistant DSL		
Early Help/ CAF Team /Hub		
Children's Social Care (MASH)		
Emergency Duty Service		
Adult's Social Care (if 18+ students on site)		
Emergency Duty Service		
	Name	Contact Details
Headteacher		
Chair of Governors		
Chief Executive Officer	George Croxford	<a href="mailto:dpo@ascendlearningtrust.org.uk">dpo@ascendlearningtrust.org.uk</a>
Local Authority Designated Officer / Designated Officer For Allegations		
Data Protection Officer	Caroline Harrison	<a href="mailto:gcroxford@ascendlearningtrust.org.uk">gcroxford@ascendlearningtrust.org.uk</a>
Police	101 /999	
NSPCC Whistle-blowing Helpline	0800 028 0285	

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## OUR SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING

Ascend Learning Trust schools take seriously their responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

**“The welfare of the pupil/student is paramount.”** (Children Act 1989.)

Our staff, Governors and Trustees are committed to safeguarding the pupil at our schools and contribute to multi-agency working to keep pupils safe.

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:**

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's **mental and physical** health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

All adults working in our schools maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. We recognise that staff, because of their contact with and knowledge of children in their care, are well placed to identify abuse or neglect and offer support to children in need.

This policy and set of procedures work in line with the relevant legislation, statutory guidance and take account of non-statutory guidance, all of which are listed in Appendix 1

In addition, Ascend Learning Trust schools have developed an annex to this policy to reflect the additional procedures required during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is regularly reviewed and updated as required and is in line with **Government guidance**.

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## PART 1 – PROCEDURES FOR STAFF

### WORRIED ABOUT A PUPIL

You may be worried about a pupil because you have seen or heard something. You may have noticed a change in their behaviour.

Where a pupil comes to speak to you directly and tells you information which may suggest they are at risk of abuse, this is known as a disclosure.

**If a pupil/student discloses to you, you should:**

**Listen** to what the pupil is saying, without displaying any signs of shock or disbelief

**Allow** the pupil to talk freely without interrupting

**Reassure** the pupil but do not make promises about keeping the information a secret

**Reassure** the pupil that this is not their fault

**Ask** questions only if you need to clarify, take care not to put words in their mouth by asking leading questions

**Explain** to the pupil that they have done the right thing by telling you and explain what you will do next, in line with the procedures outlined below.

You may not have received a direct disclosure, but you have over-heard a conversation which worries you. You may have seen a mark on a pupil which worries you or noticed a change in behaviour. You have a responsibility to follow the steps below:

#### Step 1

If you are concerned that a pupil might be in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm you must act immediately. Do you need to take immediate action to secure the safety of the pupil?

Report your concerns directly to a member of the Safeguarding Team, as soon as you are able. In the first instance the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, or if the DSL is unavailable, please report to the school's Deputy or Assistant DSLs.

If no-one from the school's Safeguarding Team is available, speak to the most senior member of staff on site. **If this is you, please refer to 'Role of DSL'.**

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## Step 2

Record your concerns using the school's online recording system, as soon as possible. Record the full date and time, location, your name and role and keep your record as factual as possible.

- Use full names, not initials as we need to be able to identify who individuals are.
- Use the pupil/student's own words where applicable and enclose any direct quotes in quotation marks.

If marks or injuries have been observed, record these on a body map. (Do not take photographs)

- If you make handwritten notes prior to entering the concern on the online system these must be retained and passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible, even if the notes are subsequently written up / typed up onto a form).

Enter below school specific

## Step 3

Record what action you are taking on the CPOMS log, for example whether or not parents/carers have already been spoken to.

Please insert any school specific steps

## Step 4

You should receive feedback about what action, if any, is being taken in response to your concern. A recommended timescale for this is within 24 hours. If you do not receive feedback or you feel that the situation is not improving for the pupil, you have a duty to challenge the DSL / deputy DSL. See section on Whistle-blowing also.

Additional consideration needs to be given to pupil with communication difficulties and for those whose preferred language is not English. It is important to communicate with them in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference.

## WHEN ARE PARENTS/CARERS CONTACTED?

Concerns about the welfare or safety of the pupil will be discussed with the parent/carer, unless, having reviewed the information of concern, it is the view of the Safeguarding Team that this may increase the risk to the pupil. Following consultation with the school's Safeguarding Team, it may be the pupil's **class teacher/pastoral leader** who makes contact with the parents/carers or it may be a member of the safeguarding team themselves.

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Ascend Learning Trust schools' first priority is the pupil's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when concerns about a pupil means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact the parent/carer.

If a referral is to be made to Children's Social Care, the parent/carer will be contacted by a member of the school's Safeguarding Team and the information within the referral will be shared. There are some occasions when the school will be advised not to share the content of the referral with the parent/ carer as to do so may increase the risk of harm to the pupil.

Where reports are written about pupil as part of the child protection process, schools will provide opportunity prior to the conference to share the content with parents and carers.

## **THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD & DEPUTY DSL/S IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) work in line with the requirements of the role, as set out in Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2020. Our Deputy DSL(s) & Assistant DSL(s) are available in the absence of the DSL.

Safeguarding leads for **insert School** are named at the front of this policy.  
**insert any specific school roles**

The members of our Safeguarding Teams work in partnership with a range of other agencies, including Local Partners, to keep pupils safe. This includes information-sharing, provision of reports and attendance at multi-agency meetings including child protection conferences and core groups.

## **WHAT HAPPENS ONCE A CONCERN/DISCLOSURE HAS BEEN REPORTED TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM?**

The DSL or Deputy/Assistant DSL(s) will follow the steps below to respond appropriately to the concern and safeguard the pupil:

### **Step 1**

If there is concern that the pupil/student is in immediate danger contact Children's Social Care/Adult's Social Care (for Ascend Learning Trust schools with Post-16 provision).  
(See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2)

You may also consider contacting the police on 999. Go to section 'Making a referral to Social Care' (page 9)

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## Step 2

Contact the parent/s or carer/s of the pupil concerned, if this has not already been done. You may wish to take advice from Children's Social Care before contacting the parent/ carer.

If, having sought advice, you believe that sharing this information may increase the risk of harm to the pupil, do not share with parents at this stage. You must document your decision-making here, if the decision is made not to share information with parents/carers.

In the majority of cases informing the parents/carers of the concern / disclosure which has been reported will not increase risk. Ask for any additional information from the parent/ carer if applicable.

Ensure that the parent/carer understands that a record will be kept by the school.

## Step 3

Refer to the local authority threshold document ([consider hyper-linking to the document for easy access](#)) to support decision-making about what action is now required.

What are the risks to the child? Are they familial; posed by someone in the child's family? Are they extra-familial; posed by adults or peers outside of the home?  
(See Part 1 of KCSIE 2020 for further information)

If the concern does not require immediate contact with Children's/Adult's Social Care, consider this latest concern within the context of any wider concerns / disclosures. This may mean further discussion with the pupil's class teacher / tutor and/or referring back to safeguarding or child protection records if they exist.

## Step 4

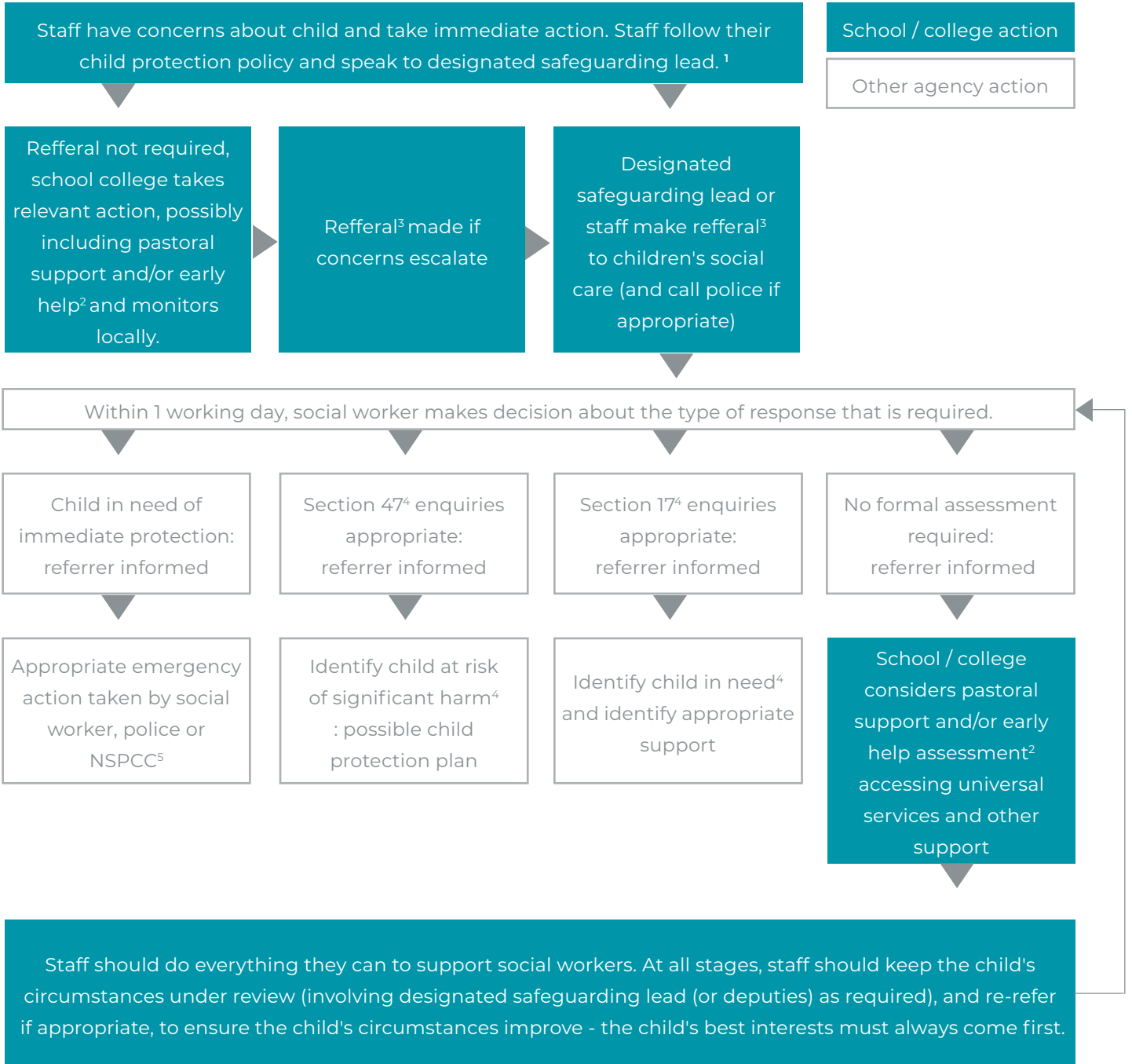
Ensure that the member of staff reporting the initial concern has received feedback about actions and outcomes (if applicable).

## Step 5

Update record-keeping with information about identified actions, completed actions, decision-making (where applicable) and outcomes (as appropriate).

## FLOWCHART TAKEN FROM 'KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION' SEPT 20

### Actions where there are concerns about a child





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## EARLY HELP

### What do we mean by Early Help?

#### **Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018) explains that:**

'Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care, or in families where there are emerging parental mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse.' (Chapter 1)

#### **Effective early help relies upon local agencies, including education working together to:**

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a pupil/student and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the pupil.

#### **How are children and families identified for Early Help?**

In Ascend Learning Trust schools, staff are alert to the fact that early signs of abuse and/or neglect can be indicators that support is needed.

#### **In addition, the following children are more likely to require some form of early help:**

- Disabled children
- Children with special educational needs
- Young carers
- Children displaying signs of anti-social or criminal behaviour
- In family circumstances presenting challenges, including family breakdown
- Children who have returned home from care

Ascend Learning Trust schools support parents/carers who self-refer as requiring early help.

#### **What support is provided as part of the school's Early Help offer?**

- Bullet points –school specific
- Example ( Breakfast Clubs)

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## How does the Early Help process work?

Ascend Learning Trust schools will use an Early Help assessment to ascertain the level of need Any External Support School Specific.

## MAKING A REFERRAL TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Ascend Learning Trust schools' Safeguarding Teams should refer to the local authority threshold guidance when making a decision to refer to social care. There are a number of additional 'frameworks' which can also be considered at this stage e.g. The Brook Tool, Neglect Framework

A referral may be required because:

- Early Help support has been offered but there is little or no evidence that this is having any impact for the pupil and their 'lived experience' is not improving
- a child/young person is suffering or is likely to suffer from harm
- In the first instance this should be made by telephone (See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2). It is useful to have any safeguarding / child protection records to hand.

Following a telephone referral, you will be required to submit a written referral within 24 hours.

### Points to consider when completing a referral:

- Where possible include the 'voice' of the child, including any behaviours displayed which may indicate an unmet need.
- Provide a picture of what life is like for the pupil - what is their 'lived experience'?
- Is the risk posed familial or extra-familial?
- From the school's perspective, what are your worries for this child/young person?
- Are there any safety factors? Are there any times when the school is less worried?

The completed referral will be shared with parents/carers, who will be asked to provide consent to the information being shared with social care. If consent is not given, or the referrer deems that it would place the pupil at risk to share the referral prior to reporting to social care, the information can still be shared where there is good reason to do so.

### See also:

- Page 22 and 23 (KCSIE 20)
- Section below in this policy – Information-sharing

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## Support for the Pupil

In addition to the Early Help offer outline above, Insert School Name support also includes:

- Bullet Points- School Specific
- For Example Non-teaching / dedicated Safeguarding Leads

## See also

'What To Do If Worried About A Pupil/Student' - DfE March 2015"

## ESCALATION

- If a member of Ascend Learning Trust staff does not see any improvement having reported a concern about a pupil, they have a duty to re-report to a member of the school's Safeguarding Team.
- If it is felt that the Safeguarding Team is not taking their concern seriously, then this must be escalated to the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors (if the Headteacher is the DSL). See also section 'Whistle-blowing'.
- If a member of the Safeguarding Team feels a decision made by another professional in another agency is not in the pupil's best interests, they must discuss this further. In the first instance, this takes place directly with the professional involved to allow opportunity for decision-making to be discussed and clarified. (Pre-escalation)
- If pre-escalation fails to resolve the issues identified, the member of the Safeguarding Team should escalate within their own organisation (to the Head teacher if they are not in this role). The issue is then escalated to the professional's line-manager. (Escalation/ Case Resolution)
- At all stages records should be kept.
- The Head teacher will ensure that the intention to instigate escalation procedures is made explicit and in writing.
- At all stages records should be kept.

## WORRIED ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF AN ADULT WHO WORKS/VOLUNTEERS WITH CHILDREN

You may be worried about the actions of an adult who is working/volunteering with children.

### The adult may be:

- An employee of the school
- A supply teacher
- An adult working with the school, employed by a third party (including staff working in

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- alternative and enhanced provision)
  - A volunteer

You may have seen or heard something which makes you feel uncomfortable.

You may be concerned that the adult's actions are contravening the school's staff code of conduct.

You may be aware of a situation the adult is involved in, outside of school, which suggests they may not be safe to work/volunteer with children and young people.

All concerns must be reported following the steps below:

### **Step 1**

- If you are concerned that a pupil/student might be in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm you must act immediately. Do you need to take immediate action to secure the safety of the pupil/student?
- Report your concerns directly to the Headteacher as soon as possible.
- If the Head teacher is not contactable, report to the most senior member of staff on site thereafter.
- If your concerns are about the Headteacher, report to the Chair of Governors directly. (See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2).

### **Step 2**

- Record your concerns in writing as soon as possible.
- Remember to record the full date and time, your name and role and keep your record as factual as possible.
- Handwritten/typed notes must be retained, even if the notes are subsequently written up onto a form.
- Record what action you are taking, for example record the name of the member of staff you have reported to.
- The original concern form should be passed to the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors, if the concern/allegation involves the Headteacher. Copies should not be retained by you.
- If the person you have reported the concern to does not take your concern seriously, you must escalate your concern to the Chair of Governors or CEO of the Ascend Learning Trust. Ultimately anyone can report a safeguarding concern about an adult working with children into the local authority, asking to speak to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)/ Designated Officer for Allegations (DOFA). (See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2).

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## What happens once a report about an adult working/volunteering with children is reported?

### Step 1

- The Chair of Governors must report the concern/allegation to the CEO immediately where a concern or allegation has been made about the Headteacher of the school.
- The Headteacher / Chair of Governors/CEO will consider the information in the report and initial consideration will be given as to whether this indicates that the person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in close or regular contact with children in their present position or in any capacity.

### This will be done by assessing whether there is evidence to suggest that:

- The person has behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- The person has possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- The person has behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that he/she may pose a risk of harm to children
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Criteria listed above taken from Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' Sept 2020

- Where an allegation is made against a supply teacher, the Headteacher will immediately contact the supply teacher's agency to share this information and agree next steps, including possible involvement of the LADO/DOFA.

### Step 2

- If LADO/DoFA involvement is not required, the Headteacher / Chair of Governors may need to complete their own enquiries to establish whether any further action is required eg additional training for adult involved, additional staff supervision required, risk assessment required. Advice should also be sought from the school's HR Manager regarding whether the capability or disciplinary process needs to be implemented in response to the concerns raised. Written records must be made of the subsequent decision-making process and reasons for decision-making, together with actions and outcomes.

### Step 3

- If it is decided that there is evidence to suggest the concern meets one or more of the above criteria the Headteacher / Chair of Governors should contact the LADO/DOFA immediately. (See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2).

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### **The LADO/DOFA will decide on further action:**

- No further action after initial consideration and closure, or
- Advice and follow up from LADO/DOFA, or
- Strategy discussion/meeting

If no further action by the LADO/DOFA is agreed, the school may be asked to complete their own enquiries and report the findings back to the LADO/DOFA at the conclusion.

If further action is agreed, the LADO/DOFA will agree with the police whether or not a strategy discussion/ meeting needs to take place. If it is agreed that the threshold has not been met for a strategy discussion/meeting, an allegations management meeting may be held. The main purpose of this is to ensure the safety of the children and ensure the process is concluded promptly, ensuring the accused staff member has adequate support.

All concerns raised about an adult working in the school, including allegations, are recorded and held confidentially by the Headteacher.

Chairs of Governors involved with allegation management will need to consider how records of their involvement are stored securely.

All records are stored in line with the Trust's Retention Schedule which is accessible from the Trust Data Protection Officer.

Where a strategy discussion/meeting has been held involving the LADO/DOFA the school will be sent a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

Where an allegation is substantiated this will be referred to in any references provided by the school for the individual if and when they apply for new positions. If the adult is employed by an external agency, a copy of these records will be given to the senior lead of the organisation.

Employers have a duty of care for their employees. The Headteacher / Chair of Governors / CEO must put in place support for the adult at the centre of the concern/allegation.

For further reference, KCSIE contains comprehensive information under the section "Supporting those involved".

Statutory requirements in relation to individuals who are on the barred list.

At the end of the allegation process if a member of staff or volunteer is removed from their position for causing harm or posing a risk of harm or they leave whilst investigations are on-going, the school has a duty to inform the Disclosure and Barring Service via a referral.

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Ascend Learning Trust schools understand that if we know or have reason to believe that an individual is barred, we are committing an offence if we allow the individual to carry out any form of regulated activity.

See also Chapter 4 Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 20)

## **SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING THEMES AND ISSUES**

### **NEGLECT**

**What do we mean by neglect?**

**Working Together defines neglect as:**

'The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

**Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:**

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.'

**What are the indicators of neglect?**

**The following is a summary of some of the indicators that may suggest a child is at risk of or being neglected:**

**Physical indicators of neglect**

- Constant hunger and stealing food
- Poor personal hygiene - unkempt, dirty or smelly
- Underweight
- Dress unsuitable for weather
- Poor state of clothing
- Illness or injury untreated

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## Behavioural indicators of neglect

- Constant tiredness
- Frequent absence from school or lateness
- Missing medical appointments
- Isolated among peers
- Frequently unsupervised
- Stealing or scavenging, especially food
- Destructive tendencies

Your local authority may have a Neglect Framework/toolkit, which you wish to refer to [here](#)

## PEER ON PEER ABUSE

We recognise that children are capable of abusing other children. We understand that the pupil who is perpetrating the abuse may also be at risk of harm. We will make every effort to ensure that the perpetrator is also treated as a victim and supported appropriately.

- What is peer on peer abuse?
- Peer on peer abuse can take the form of:

### Bullying (including Cyberbullying)

**There is no legal definition of bullying. However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:**

- Repeated
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- Often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

**It takes many forms and can include:**

- Physical assault
- Teasing
- Making threats
- Name calling
- Cyber bullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)
- Racist and Religious Bullying: A range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalised, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith community, national origin or national status;
- Sexual, Sexist and Transphobic Bullying: includes any behaviour, whether physical or



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- non- physical, where sexuality is used as a weapon by boys or girls;
  - Homophobic Bullying: targets someone because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation);
  - Disablist Bullying: targets a young person solely based on their disability, this can include manipulative bullying where a perpetrator forces the victim to act in a certain way or exploiting a certain aspect of the victim's disability.

### **What action is taken in response to concerns about bullying?**

Pupils who attend Ascend Learning Trust schools have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

We will follow the 'no blame approach' for the initial conversations with pupils involved.

[Please insert any school specific guidance here](#)

Pupils are requested to write an account of the alleged incident and this is retained for future reference. Incidents are logged on CPOMS. Schools will use a variety of different interventions in order to prevent pupils from bullying, these may include: ie, restorative justice, behaviour contracts,

After the incident(s) has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to try to prevent repeated bullying taking place. Senior Leaders report to governors termly regarding any trends in this data.

Ascend Learning Trust schools will always consider the need for reasonable adjustment for all pupils with protected characteristics; the SENDCO will be consulted if specialist advice is required to inform an action or outcome.

NB: More information is available in each school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**The definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) from the Department of Education (DfE, 2017) states that:**

"Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

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The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

It is important to remember that there are different models of CSE (see section below on Exploitation), including peer on peer sexual exploitation. Many children are not aware of the exploitation as they have a genuine belief that they are loved by their boyfriend / girlfriend or are acting in accordance with their peers.

They are often recruited into exploitation by those who they trust, those of a similar age and with similar hobbies. Often the nature of peer on peer exploitation encompasses a sense of peer pressure and wanting to fit in.

### **What action is taken in response to concerns that a pupil might be being sexually exploited by a peer?**

Ascend Learning Trust schools’ normal safeguarding procedures will be followed here, and a referral made to social care as appropriate (including support for the pupil/student who is deemed to be 'perpetrating' the abuse.)

### **Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

“Sexually harmful behaviour from children does not always occur with the intent to harm others. There may be many reasons why a child engages in sexually harmful behaviour and it may be just as distressing to the child who instigates it as well as the child it is intended towards.

For this reason, consideration will always be given to how the child displaying the behaviour is supported, in addition to the 'victim' of the behaviour.

This may include a referral to social care. Sexually harmful behaviour may range from inappropriate sexual language, inappropriate role play, to sexually touching another or sexual assault / abuse.”

Taken from Tri.X 'Peer on Peer Abuse' Briefing 198 (Feb 2017)

### **What action is taken in response to concerns that a pupil/student has exhibited harmful sexual behaviour?**

- Consider referring to the ‘Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool
- Ascend Learning Trust schools’ normal safeguarding procedures will be followed here, and a referral made to social care as appropriate, for both the pupil displaying the behaviours, and also any pupil who has been involved and may have been harmed.

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## Sexting

“Harmful sexual behaviour also includes sexting when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video. This includes sending ‘nude pics’, ‘rude pics’ or ‘nude selfies’.

Pressuring someone into sending a nude picture may occur in any relationship and to anyone, whatever their age, gender or sexual preference. However, once the image is taken and sent, the sender has lost control of the image and these images could end up anywhere.

By having in their possession, or distributing, indecent images of a person under 18 on to someone else, children are not even aware that they could be committing a criminal offence.”

Taken from Tri.X 'Peer on Peer Abuse' Briefing 198 (Feb 2017)

## Responding To A Sexting Incident

See also the [UK Safer Internet Centre and SWGfL guidance 2016](#)

### Step 1

If a device is involved, endeavour to secure the device and switch it off. Report immediately to the DSL or deputy DSL.

### Step 2

The DSL / deputy will consider the following:

- Significant age difference between the sender/receiver involved
- If staff recognise the pupil as more vulnerable than is usual (ie at risk)
- If the image is of a severe or extreme nature
- If the situation is not isolated and the image has been more widely distributed
- If this is not the first time the pupil has been involved in a sexting act
- If other knowledge of either the sender/recipient may add cause for concern (ie difficult home circumstances)

### Step 3

If these characteristics present cause for concern, then the DSL or deputy will escalate and make a referral to children’s social care. The police may also be contacted at this point.

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## Step 4

A record of the incident will be made using the school's safeguarding concern system (Insert School System Name) including actions taken / not taken and the justification for these decisions (linked to the points above).

### Sexual harassment and sexual violence

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two pupils of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of pupils sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single pupil/student or group of pupils/. Definitions of sexual violence and sexual harassment can be found in the document listed below.

See also Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (May 18)

Responding to an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence

## Step 1

Record the incident using (Insert school system name) and report to the DSL / deputy in line with safeguarding and child protection procedures. Is information about the incident first-hand or do other individuals need to be spoken to confirm?

## Step 2

### The DSL will consider the following:

- Ages of pupils / developmental stage
- Is there a power imbalance?
- One-off incident or sustained pattern?
- Has a criminal offence been committed? If yes, contact the police

See also 'When To call the Police' (NPCC)

## Step 3

If there is no evidence to suggest that a criminal offence has taken place, the DSL will consider next steps, in discussion with parents/carers unless to do so would increase the risk to the pupils involved.

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### **This may involve:**

- Dealing with internally under the school's behaviour policy
- Considering Early Help support for both the victim and perpetrator (does the perpetrator have unmet needs?)
- Making a referral to children's/adult's social care if the victim has been harmed, or is at risk of harm
- Making a referral to children's/adult's social care if the perpetrator is at risk of harm / being harmed (under-lying welfare and safety concerns which may have triggered behaviours)

How does the school minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse?

### **Teaching and learning**

Ascend Learning Trust primary schools provide a Relationships Education curriculum and Ascend Learning Trust secondary schools provide a Relationships and Sex Education curriculum which develops pupils' understanding of healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe. This curriculum is broad, balanced and covers a range of safeguarding themes. It is progressive across the year groups.

(See RSE Policy).

### **Reporting Procedures**

Ascend Learning Trust schools' ethos encourages pupils to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.

### **Pupils are aware of the following:**

- **Bullet Point School Specific: ie, Pupils made aware of who the safeguarding team is**

### **Expectations of behaviour**

Ascend Learning Trust schools have a behaviour policy in place which is regularly reviewed and sets out the expectations about appropriate behaviour. Our school makes clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated, and is not an inevitable part of growing up.

All members of our school communities are expected to report any incidents of unacceptable behaviour, which can then be monitored and responded to by the Safeguarding Team.

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## Risk Assessments

Risk assessments may be written for pupils, who have been identified as being at increased risk of peer on peer abuse (considered for both the pupil perpetrating the abuse and the pupil who is the victim.) These will be shared with the parent/carer and the pupil(s) concerned.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

The government's definition of domestic abuse is:

'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of sexuality or gender.

**The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:**

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial; and
- Emotional

What action is taken in response to concerns that a pupil might be subject to or witnessing domestic abuse?

Where a member of staff or regular volunteer/visitor has a concern about a pupil in this situation, or where a disclosure has been made to an adult working in the school, the school's normal safeguarding and child protection procedures will be followed.

The police will send Domestic Abuse notifications to the school, normally within 48 hours of the incident occurring (Operation Encompass). The school will record this incident on **Insert School System Name** within the pupil's chronology.

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## **EXPLOITATION AND SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIME**

This school recognises that children can be exploited sexually or criminally. They may be at risk of or involved in serious violent crime.

### **What is Criminal Exploitation?**

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

### **Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:**

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education

CCE can include children being forced to shoplift or pickpocket, forced to threaten other young people, forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money around the local area or across counties (County Lines)

### **What is Child Sexual Exploitation?**

Child Sexual Exploitation occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex.

It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g.

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through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

**The above CCE indicators can also be indicators of CSE, as can:**

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant

**What action is taken in response to concerns that a pupil might be being exploited?**

Ascend Learning Trust schools' normal safeguarding procedures will be followed here, and a referral made to social care as appropriate (including support, if applicable, for the pupil who is deemed to be 'perpetrating' the abuse.)

See also 'When To call the Police' (NPCC)

## **HONOUR-BASED ABUSE, INCLUDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

**What is honour-based abuse?**

Honour-based abuse encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and practices such as breast-ironing.

**What action is taken in response to concerns about honour-based abuse?**

Abuse committed in the context of preserving honour often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can involve multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what action to take.

Ascend Learning Trust schools' safeguarding procedures will be followed here and staff should speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team immediately if they suspect a child or young person is at risk of honour-based abuse. Safeguarding Teams will contact children's social care/ adults social care for anyone 18 or above and local protocols will be followed.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

**What is Female Genital Mutilation?**

FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems,



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difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother; and/or death.

### **Key points**

- FGM is illegal in the UK. It is also illegal to take a British National or permanent resident abroad to undergo FGM or help someone who is trying to arrange to have FGM performed.
- FGM is an unacceptable practice for which there is no justification. It is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls.
- FGM is prevalent in 30 countries. These are concentrated in countries around the Atlantic coast to the Horn of Africa, in areas of the Middle East, and in some countries in Asia.
- FGM is a deeply embedded social norm, practised by families for a variety of complex reasons. It is often thought to be essential for a girl to become a proper woman, and to be marriageable. This practice is not required by any religion.

### **Risk Factors**

The most significant factor to consider when deciding whether a girl or woman may be at risk of FGM is whether her family has a history of practising FGM. In addition, it is important to consider whether FGM is known to be practised in her community or country of origin. It is important not to make assumptions that all girls from these communities are at risk.

A parent may request permission for their child to travel overseas for an extended period. This is sometimes requested leading into or out of a school holiday (often the summer break).

### **What action is taken in response to concerns about Female Genital Mutilation?**

If a girl has disclosed to you that she has been subjected to FGM, or you have visual evidence of this, you must report it to the police. Teachers are required to report known cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police under the mandatory reporting duty October 2015.

If a direct disclosure has not been made and there is no visual evidence, but you have concerns that the pupil may have been subject to, or at risk of, FGM, the school's normal safeguarding procedures will be followed here.

This includes reporting your concerns to a member of the Safeguarding Team and putting your concerns in writing.

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## What happens once a concern /disclosure has been reported to a member of the Safeguarding Team?

The DSL or deputy DSL will follow the steps below to respond appropriately to the concern and safeguard the pupil:

### Step 1

- Consider the information of concern. This may mean referring back to check whether there is any previous information of concern for the pupil.

### Step 2

- Check whether there are any risk factors present for the pupil / family

### Step 3

- Where it is deemed appropriate to do so, speak to the parent or carer about FGM. Be sensitive to language differences.

### Step 4

- At this stage consideration should be given to make a referral to Children's Social Care. In the first instance this should be made by telephone; it is useful to have any safeguarding / child protection records to hand. Following a telephone referral, you will be required to submit a written referral within 24 hours. (See Quick Reference Contact Guide on Page 2).

See also:

FGM Helpline: 08000283550

Email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

Multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM

Home Office Resource Pack - <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

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## Response to concerns about a Pupil who may be at risk of Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk is part of our safeguarding approach.

- Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

## What are the indicators that may suggest a pupil is at risk?

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships
- Secretive behaviour
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- Work or writing that displays extremist themes
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Advocating violence towards others

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. As a school we recognise that extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages.

See also:

- Online safety for information about filtering
- The Use of Social Media For Online Radicalisation (DfE July 15)

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## **What action is taken in response to concerns that a pupil might be at risk of radicalisation?**

Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise that they have an important part to play in educating children about extremism and recognising when a pupil(s) start to become radicalised.

### **Ascend Learning Trust schools ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching:**

- We promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.
- The governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice.
- Pupils who attend our schools have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.
- Visitors who are invited to speak to pupils will be informed about our ethos and safeguarding procedures and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present.

Our normal safeguarding procedures will be followed here, and a referral made to social care as appropriate.

In addition, the DSL / deputy DSL may consider making a referral to the local authority Channel Panel (seek advice from Children's Social Care). Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity.

### **Each local authority has a panel and it aims to:**

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

The DfE helpline can be contacted for advice 020 7340 7264 (this should not be used in cases of emergency), or via the e mail [\*\*counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

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## **PUPILS AT GREATER RISK OF HARM**

### **Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise that pupils who have special education needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding and child protection challenges.

#### **These can include:**

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the pupil's disability without further exploration
- Pupils with SEND can be disproportionately impacted upon by things like bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers

Pupils who need a social worker (including Children in Need, Children on a Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After). Children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. They may need this help due to abuse, neglect and complex family circumstances.

#### **A child's experience of trauma and adversity can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged, facing barriers to:**

- Attendance
- Learning
- Behaviour
- Mental health

Ascend Learning Trust schools ensure that all staff working directly with children/young people have a knowledge and understanding of the impact of adversity and trauma on children's mental and physical health, development and life chances. We understand that children can communicate an unmet need through their behaviour, whether this is challenging and disruptive or quiet and withdrawn.

Teaching staff are supported by the members of the Safeguarding Team to maintain high aspirations for these children, identifying the challenges these children may face and making adjustments to teaching and learning to best support them.

The Designated Teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children is Insert School Person. School staff work with multi-agency professionals, including the Local Authority Virtual Schools Head, to ensure that prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children. We recognise these children are a particularly vulnerable group.

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Appropriate staff are provided with information in relation to their legal status and contact arrangements, as well as information about the child's care arrangements.

### **Pupils with Mental Health Issues**

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic experiences this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, into adolescence and into adulthood. Regular safeguarding training ensures that staff are aware of how these children's experiences can impact on their mental health.

#### **Signs of possible mental health issues include:**

- Noticeable weight loss or gain
- Physical injuries
- Change in personality eg mood swings
- Frequently missing lessons
- Social isolation
- Lethargy and disinterest
- Tearfulness or appearing anxious
- Lack of focus in class
- Change in educational performance

**Insert School Name** may support pupils' mental health issues in the following ways:

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## BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise that there can be links between safeguarding and child protection concerns and:

- Incidents of disruptive and challenging behaviour
- Poor attendance

### Behaviour

Ascend Learning Trust schools understand that children can communicate an unmet need through their behaviour, whether this is challenging and disruptive or quiet and withdrawn. Our school behaviour policy reflects this and includes the ways in which we respond in these situations.

See also the school's pupil behaviour policy.

#### Positive-handling of pupils

Where physical intervention is required to keep a pupil safe, the school will respond in line with the DfE guidance 'Use of reasonable force' July 2013.

#### As a school we may intervene to:

- Remove a disruptive pupil from the classroom where they have refused to follow an instruction to do so;
- Prevent a pupil behaving in a way that disrupts a school event or a school trip or visit;
- Prevent a pupil leaving the classroom where allowing the pupil to leave would risk their safety or lead to behaviour that disrupts the behaviour of others;
- Prevent a pupil from attacking a member of staff or another pupil, or to stop a fight in the playground; and
- Restrain a pupil at risk of harming themselves through physical outbursts.

All incidents of positive handling are recorded in the school's bound book and reported to parents/carers. Where a pupil has safeguarding/child protection records in place, information about incidents of positive handling will be cross-referenced.

**School Name- and reporting for example Lawn Manor Academy's bound book can be found as a report within CPOMS**

Where pupil requires regular handling and intervention, a positive handling plan will be put in place. The pupil, together with the parents/carers, will be involved in this process.

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Include here any reference to specific staff training which has been completed, such as Team Teach.

## **Attendance**

Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise the importance of pupil attending school regularly. Any unexplained absence is followed up on the first day of absence. Where possible, we hold more than one emergency contact telephone number for each pupil/family.

Pupil attendance is insert school specific and regularly monitored. Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise that children with poor attendance, or missing from education (CME), may be more vulnerable and potentially are exposed to higher degrees of risk. Attendance information is therefore considered within the wider remit of safeguarding and child protection.

Staff are aware that episodes of unexplained absence could indicate safeguarding concerns or the need for early help support. The Attendance Officer is responsible for referring CME pupils to the Local Authority; insert any School specific points here

**See also 'Early Help**

**See also the local authority's guidance on 'Children Missing Education'**

## **Pupils who are educated off site**

Where pupils are attending off-site alternative, or enhanced, provision, it is Ascend Learning Trust schools' responsibility to ensure that they continue to be kept safe. Quality assurance of any provision used by our schools is completed prior to the placement of a pupil.

### **This includes:**

- Review of the provision's safeguarding and child protection procedures
- A visit to the site.
- A letter of assurance to confirm that all staff working at the alternative provision have had the appropriate recruitment checks

**Insert any school specific attending alternative provision in your school here**

This process also applies where a pupil has been excluded from school, including fixed term exclusions.



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Contact will be made with a parent or carer to confirm their safety on each day of the exclusion.

## **INTIMATE CARE**

Intimate care includes any tasks that involve the dressing and undressing, washing including intimate parts, helping someone use the toilet, changing nappies or carrying out a procedure that requires direct or indirect contact to an intimate personal area.

Please insert additional information and refer to your intimate care policy if applicable.

### **Part 2 Policy**

#### **How is the information in this set of policy and procedures disseminated?**

Our staff induction programme includes a safeguarding section and new staff are asked to read the policy and procedures. New staff will complete an online safeguarding basic awareness course as part of their induction **add any additional information.**

Visitors, volunteers and external staff, including supply teachers, who visit our schools are asked to read a shortened version of the safeguarding procedures. Records are kept to document staff and visitor commitment to working in line with these procedures.

All staff receive a termly Safeguarding Newsletter with relevant updates. Aspects of this policy and procedures are shared as safeguarding updates with staff via the weekly pastoral briefing. The Safeguarding policy is circulated to all staff at least annually, or sooner if reviewed within that timescale. **Insert any additional information here**

#### **How do we ensure parents and carers understand the school's role in safeguarding pupil?**

This school is committed to helping parents/carers understand its responsibility for the welfare of all pupil and our duty of care. The policy and procedures are available to parents and carers via the school website and a paper copy can be requested by contacting the school office.

**Insert any website resources here.**

**The school website also provides access to a number of useful resources for parents and carers. These can be found in the 'Safeguarding' tab of the school's website.**

During pupil induction meetings for parents and carers, information will also be discussed about the school's safeguarding responsibilities.

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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the role of the Governing Body to ensure that all statutory duties with regard to safeguarding and child protection are fulfilled, as detailed in 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' (Sept 20). The school completes an annual audit of safeguarding, in partnership with the link safeguarding Governor. This self-evaluation is quality assured with a visit from an independent consultant.

Where weaknesses or areas for development are identified, the Governing Body monitors the implementation and impact of identified actions to address these issues. The Governing Body have a responsibility to ensure this policy and set of procedures are fit for purpose and known to all staff and regular volunteers. **Any SLT /LGB here.** This is also reviewed 3 times per year at the overarching Trust Standards Committee.

**Where external organisations use the school premises, both within the school day and outside of school hours, the Governing Body has a responsibility to:**

- Seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding pupils
- Ensure that the appropriate level of safer recruitment checks have been completed on staff working for the organisation

## RECORD-KEEPING

Any member of staff, visitor or volunteer who has a concern about a pupil's welfare, or receives a disclosure of abuse, will make an accurate record, as soon as possible, noting what was said or seen, putting the event into context and giving the full date, time and location.

Where possible this will be noted on **School specific systems**. If injuries or marks have been observed which cause concern, these should be recorded on a body map outline (**school specific systems**), giving an indication of size and whether there is a defined shape to the mark or injury.

Photographs should not be taken.

Any handwritten notes (not captured on the safeguarding and child protection concern/incident form) will be retained, even if they are subsequently written up.

Records of concern or disclosures will be kept (even if there is no need to make a referral immediately). These records are stored confidentially. They do not form part of the pupil's educational records and are stored separately.

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All records are stored in line with the Trust's Retention Schedule which is accessible from the Trust Data Protection Officer.

Confidentiality will be maintained and information relating to individual pupil's / families will be shared with staff on a need to know basis.

### **Individual pupil files**

Once a pattern of concern or disclosures begins to emerge an individual file will be established for the pupil. This will be organised clearly and includes a chronology. The chronology will be kept up to date and reviewed at regular intervals.

All 'significant events' are captured on this chronology, including attendance at meetings, phone calls and emails in relation to safeguarding and /or child protection matters. This chronology also captures headline information about what action has been taken and the outcome of this action. The outcome should focus, where possible, on the pupil and indicate whether the situation is improving.

### **Case file review**

Safeguarding and child protection files for individual pupil should be re-visited regularly to ensure any risk is being reduced and appropriate taken. It is good practice for this review to take place on a termly basis.

To ensure that all files are reviewed, an overview of all pupils (where there are safeguarding / child protection concerns) is kept up to date. This is a 'live' document and reflects the numbers of pupils subject to child protection, child in need or receiving early help support.

### **Transfer of records when a pupil moves to a new school**

When a pupil moves school/college, safeguarding / child protection original documentation will be passed as soon as possible, and confidentially, to the receiving school, separate from academic records.

Where possible, the DSL will arrange to meet the DSL of the new school to discuss the documentation. The receiving school is asked to sign to confirm receipt of the information and this confirmation is stored on file.

Copies of records are not retained by the transferring school.

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### **The school will retain records for pupil/students:**

- Who have been withdrawn to be home-schooled, if there is an existing safeguarding / child protection file.

Where they are the last educational provider for the pupil

All records are stored in line with the Trust's Retention Schedule which is accessible from the Trust Data Protection Officer.

### **SAFER RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES**

This school works in line with Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 2020).

Checks completed on all staff and regular volunteers

- An enhanced DBS certificate, which includes barred list information, is required for any staff who will be engaging in regulated activity (working unsupervised with children). This is required for any staff employed since 2002. Prior to this staff were checked against List 99.
- Identity checks are completed, together with proof of right to work in the UK
- Qualifications are checked
- If an individual has lived or worked outside of the UK an overseas police check / certificate of good conduct may be required. A check of visa/work permit will also be required here.

### **In addition, staff who have a teaching role will be checked, via the DfE Secure Access Website, for:**

- Qualified teacher status (QTS)
- Prohibition check
- Section 128 check (for any individual who has a managerial role, including Governors and Trustees in academies)
- Completion of induction
- Teacher not subject to a conditional offer/suspension
- European Economic Area sanctions

### **Visitors and externally employed staff**

Where staff from external organisations are working with Ascend Learning Trust pupils, we ensure that the letter of assurance received confirms that the relevant checks are in place, including a barred list check if the individual is working in regulated activity. Visitors are asked to provide proof of identity and if required, DBS information.

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If your school provides different coloured lanyards (according to level of check in place), you can add information about this here.

### Single Central Record

Ascend Learning Trust schools maintain an up to date single central record of all safer recruitment checks. This is in line with the requirements as set out in Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 20). The Headteacher and (Insert if LGB Chair of Governors) of each school monitors this record insert frequency and ensures it is in line with statutory requirements (Part 3 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' Sept 20).

### Induction of new staff

Following appointment, Ascend Learning Trust schools offer new staff a programme of safeguarding and child protection induction.

#### This includes:-

- Insert School Specifics for example – completion of online Basic Awareness Training

Childcare Disqualification Checks – applicable only to Ascend Learning Trust schools with staff working with under 8's.

#### The 'Disqualification Under the Childcare Act 2006 states that:

'Schools are responsible for ensuring that anyone who falls within the relevant categories of staff described in the staff covered and staff who may be covered sections is made aware of the legislation. Schools must make these staff aware of what information will be required of them and how it'll be used to make decisions about disqualification. Schools are free to decide how too bring these requirements to the attention of their staff.

As a means of making staff aware of their duty to provide such information, they may, for example, choose to include a section in the school's safeguarding policy, or another policy document, or by means of an addition to new staff members' contracts of employment. Schools should draw this guidance to the attention of their staff and the information provided by Ofsted referenced in this guidance.'

Insert a line here which states how you make staff aware of the guidance and where this is recorded (eg SCR).

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## Online Safety

### What are the school's responsibilities around online safety?

'Keeping Children Safe In Education' (Sept 20) highlights that:

'Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety.'

In addition, the DfE have also published 'Teaching Online Safety In Schools' (non-statutory guidance).

### Ascend Learning Trust schools recognise:

- The increasing role technology has to play in education and children's daily lives
- The wide-range of content which is available to children via the internet
- That alongside the benefits of technology, there are also risks
- The importance of delivering a broad and relevant online safety curriculum which provides progression across year groups
- That delivery of this curriculum must be provided via regular lessons, which take place throughout each term
- The importance of keeping up to date with the tools, apps and devices children are using so that the curriculum which is offered is meaningful.

### What our online safety curriculum offers

- Key online safety messages (such as Childnet's SMART rules) which are reinforced at every opportunity across the curriculum, in assemblies, and Personal Development (PSHE) lessons.
- Pupils are taught in all lessons to be critically aware of the materials and content they access on-line and understand that not everything they see online is true
- Pupils are supported in building resilience to radicalisation. A safe environment is provided for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

### Filters and monitoring

Insert how your school filters Or

### Use of mobile technology

Insert school specific on Mobile Phone Policy

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## SAFEGUARDING SUPERVISION

All staff working in Ascend Learning Trust schools have a responsibility to safeguard the children in their care.

**Staff can only achieve this effectively if they:**

- Are clear about what is expected of them
- Have the skills, knowledge, behaviours, values and attitudes to carry out their role
- Are fully supported in their role and managed effectively

Insert any School Specifics here for example “ Safeguarding supervision is available for any member of staff.

## WHISTLE-BLOWING

Ascend Learning Trust schools expect the highest standards of conduct from all employees and governors and will treat seriously any concern raised about illegal or improper conduct. The law provides protection for employees who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters. These are called ‘qualifying disclosures’. A qualifying disclosure is one made in the public interest by the employee who has a reasonable belief that:

- A criminal offence
- A miscarriage of justice
- An act creating risk to health and safety
- An act causing damage to the environment
- A breach of any legal obligation
- A concealment of any of the above

is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed. It is not necessary for the employee to have proof that such an act is being, has been, or is likely to be committed, a reasonable belief is sufficient. The employee has no responsibility for investigating the matter; it is the school’s responsibility to ensure that an investigation takes place.

**Staff and volunteers are encouraged to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failings in the school's safeguarding regime via:**

- The staff handbook
- The staff Code of Conduct
- The visitor's/volunteer's Code of Conduct

In the first instance, unless the employee reasonably believes their Headteacher to be involved in the wrongdoing, any concerns should be raised with the employee’s

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Headteacher.

If he/she believes the Headteacher to be involved, then the employee should proceed straight to the Chair of Governors.

Where a member of staff feels unable to raise a concern with either of the individuals identified above, the NSPCC whistle-blowing helpline is available to them.

## **TRAINING FOR ADULTS WORKING IN ASCEND LEARNING TRUST SCHOOLS.**

**We are committed to ensuring staff and volunteers know and understand:**

- The signs and symptoms of abuse;
- How to identify pupils who may benefit from early help;
- Their responsibility for referring concerns to the designated safeguarding lead / deputy;
- The procedures for reporting safeguarding /child protection concerns about adults working with children (allegations)

### **Formal training**

Safeguarding and child protection training is provided on a regular basis to all staff; this is basic awareness of safeguarding and child protection and includes the possible signs and indicators of abuse and how to respond effectively. Formal training is (Insert school Specific here) updates to all staff to enable them to carry out these requirements.

Volunteers will complete the same online training, as will the Local Governing Board. The DSL will update Governors on any statutory changes via the LGB.

## **UPDATES**

In addition to formal training, all staff receive regular opportunity to update their knowledge and understanding.

**These updates include a focus on:** (Delete where not applicable)

- Early Help
- Trauma and adversity
- Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty
- Honour-based abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation
- Exploitation, including child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation
- Child mental health
- Parent mental health
- Domestic abuse
- Online safety



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- Forced marriage and honour-based violence
  - Child-trafficking
  - Sexual harassment and sexual violence

These are delivered by a **Insert School Specifics**

Additional training for Designated Safeguarding Leads and deputy DSLs

The statutory requirement for DSLs and deputy DSLs is to renew training every 2 years. Ascend Learning Trust schools work in line with this requirement.

Our deputy DSLs have completed advanced training to the same level as the DSL, in line with the requirements of our Local Authority.

**In addition, the members of our Safeguarding Team complete:**

- FGM training
- Prevent training in line with statutory requirements

FGM and Prevent are the two elements where training for DSLs is a statutory requirement, however you may wish to add additional training to this list to reflect the expertise of the team.

**Reading Requirements**

**All staff are required to read:**

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 20)
- Annex A of Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 20)
- The school's safeguarding and child protection policy and related policies
- The school's staff code of conduct
- The pupil behaviour policy
- The safeguarding response for children missing in education
- The role of the designated Safeguarding Lead and deputy/deputies

Staff are asked to sign to confirm their understanding and accept responsibility for following up any questions or queries they have arising from reading this document (with a member of our Safeguarding Teams).

**Regular volunteers are asked to read:**

- Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe In Education (Sept 20)
- The code of conduct for volunteers

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- Information about what to do if worried about a pupil /adult working or volunteering with children

See also 'Safer Recruitment' 'Probation Procedures' for information about staff induction

## **APPENDIX 1 LEGISLATION, STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

This policy and set of procedures works in line with the following legislation, statutory guidance and non- statutory guidance:

### **LEGISLATION**

- The Education Regulations (Independent School Standards) 2014 - Independent schools including academies and free schools

### **STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

- Keeping Children Safe In Education (DfE Sept 2020)
- Working Together To Safeguard Children (DfE July 2018)
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (April 2016)
- The Early Years' Framework (April 2017)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (May 2018)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education

### **NON-STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (DfE March 2015) - (non-statutory guidance)
- The Prevent Duty - Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (DfE June 15)
- Information-sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (DfE July 218)
- Children Missing Education (Sept 16)
- Teaching Online Safety In School (June 2019)
- Safer Working Practice Guidance For Adults Working With Children and Young People (May 2019)

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**In addition, the school takes into account:**

- Regional guidance
- The procedures and practice of the local authority
- Additional annexes written to support during COVID-19

**APPENDIX 2 – DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE (TAKEN FROM WORKING TOGETHER JULY 2018)**

**Physical Abuse**

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Neglect**

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

**Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:**

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Emotional Abuse**

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or

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preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone."

## **Sexual Abuse**

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

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## APPENDIX 3 PROMPT SHEET

### Safeguarding and Child Protection

#### Prompt sheet

This form is intended to be used, alongside the concern/incident form, to support staff with the recording of safeguarding and child protection concerns/incidents.

#### Have you remembered to include:

1. What is it that you have seen/heard/noticed which concerns you? Remember if you have noticed a mark on the pupil, it is really important to complete an attached body map, giving an indication of the shape, size and location of the mark.
2. Has the child communicated that something is wrong? Verbally? Change in behaviour?
3. Clear and factual information about what you have seen/heard/noticed? If you have included your opinion in your report, have you made it clear that this is your opinion?
4. Full names of those involved and where possible, reference to staff roles?
5. Why what you have seen/heard/noticed concerns you? What are worried will happen if this concern/incident is not responded to?
6. Any actions you have already taken?
7. Whether you have spoken to parents/carers about the concern/incident? Remember, you may need to seek advice from a member of the safeguarding team if you are unsure about whether speaking to the parent may increase the risk to the pupil. If the parent is the alleged perpetrator you must always seek advice from the safeguarding team before speaking to the parent/carer.

This document was last reviewed and updated on [add date here](#)

The next scheduled review of this document is [add date here](#)

Signed:.....(Head teacher)

Date:

Signed:.....(Chair of Governors)

Date

[Please make this school specific, update and make available on your website.](#)